

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REN HARRIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ren Harris, the 2021 Napa Valley Grape Grower of the Year, for his accomplishments and contributions toward our community.

Born in 1941 in San Francisco, Harris is a sixth generation Californian. After attending Napa Valley College, the University of San Francisco, the University of California Davis and the University of Bordeaux, Mr. Harris began his career in the wine community in 1967 as a grape grower and vintner. In the late 1960's, Mr. Harris and his wife Marilyn moved from San Francisco to Oakville and began planting grapes on what was once a prune orchard. By 1975, they had successfully created the Paradigm brand, which is known and loved by residents throughout Napa Valley today.

Mr. Harris's contributions to the wine community extend far beyond Paradigm Winery. His leadership within the industry is exemplary, having served as the President of the Napa County Farm Bureau, Council Member of the California Growers Board, Director of the Napa Valley CoOp Winery, and both President and Director of the Oakville Winegrowers. Additionally, he was the founder of both the Napa Valley Grape Growers and the California Grower Foundation.

Perhaps the best testament to Mr. Harris's dedication to Napa Valley and his fellow viticulturists is his extensive work throughout his career advocating for the protection of Napa Valley's land, workforce, and community. Through the California Grower Foundation, he was able to help improve the working conditions of viticulturalists as well as establish affordable healthcare access for farmworkers. These contributions have made a lasting impact on Napa Valley and beyond.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Harris is a community member we should all strive to be. His passion for viticulture and dedication to his grape growing community make him deserving of the Napa Valley Grower of the Year. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Ren Harris here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERBERT KALINER

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise to pay tribute to a great man, Herbert Kaliner, who passed away on June 1st at the age of 94.

Herb was a cherished member of the Miami community. One of the last living survivors of Kristallnacht and the SS *St. Louis*, Herb was widely known and respected for his decades of engagement with community groups, schools, churches, and synagogues. He was a ubiquitous presence as a teacher and docent at the Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach, where he spent every Saturday leading tours and educating generations of visitors about the Holocaust.

Born in Germany, Herb was just 12 when he and his family fled the Nazi regime on "the Voyage of the Damned," the tragic ocean liner which was forced to return to Europe in 1939 after being turned away from the United States, Cuba, and Canada. When the ship returned to Europe, about 250 of the passengers were killed in the Holocaust, including Herb's parents and two sisters. "We were so close to Miami Beach, I could see it," Herb told the Miami Herald in 1997. "I said to my parents, 'Someday, I'll come back here.'"

Despite the odds, Herb survived the Nazi invasion of France by hiding in the woods and working under false papers. In 1949 he immigrated to Miami and would go on to serve admirably in the Korean War, open a bakery, marry the love of his life, and raise a wonderful family.

Herb dedicated much of the latter part of his life to advocating for the rights, interests, and needs of Holocaust survivors, especially those living in poverty. As a member of the Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA Executive Committee, he often met with elected national political and communal leaders, even testifying before Congress to ensure the rights of Holocaust survivors to live in dignity. Despite the tragedy he endured, Herb never let his commitment to justice waiver and is an enduring example of commitment, leadership, and service. He will be deeply missed.

Herb is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Vera; his daughters Debbie and Michelle; son-in-law Amir; and three grandchildren, Jessica, Zachary, and Jonah.

RECOGNITION OF MS. ALTHEA MARGARET DAILY MILLS

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills is an unsung hero in the fight for desegregation in Florida. Ms. Mills began her education in Pughsville, Winter Haven's first Black community. When she was 13, she moved to Pennsylvania to live with her aunt. There, she was able to attend integrated schools. In 1963, Mills filed a lawsuit against the Polk County Board of Public Instruction to end the "dual school system" and allow her son to attend the then, all-white, Winter Haven High School. This lawsuit eventually led to the integration of all Polk County public schools.

When asked about her motivation to challenge the system, Mills would later say "Our instructors were just as good, but some of my son's textbooks would go to page 3 and then skip to page 35. You can't learn like that."

Ms. Mills also was the first black career employee of the United States Postal Service in Winter Haven and eventually became manager of the Florence Villa Post Office. But as the first Black postal worker, her career was not easy. At one point, Ms. Mills was transferred to another post office, in an area known to be unwelcoming to Black people, in an effort to get her to quit. While the move was intimidating, she once recalled that her worst day was when a Black patron refused to buy stamps from her because she was Black.

Although Ms. Mills passed away in 2008, her legacy lives on. C.A. Boswell, Jr., the longtime attorney for the Polk County School Board, said of his former opponent, "She was a good lady and had the best interests of the kids at heart, it was a different time. It took some brave people to hold that thing (the lawsuit) up."

The recognition of Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills is all the more special as we do it on June 17, 2021, on the first recognition of Juneteenth as a National Holiday. This Juneteenth is the 155th anniversary of the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

General Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3 in Galveston, Texas which announced the freedom of the last American slaves.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages . . .

By the reading of this order two-hundred and fifty thousand slaves were freed nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

We thank Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills on this special day and appreciate her efforts to make our community a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, in honor of Building Safety Month, I am pleased to recognize the importance of safety in the built environment and the dedication of the members of the International Code Council (ICC) to their roles in protecting our communities.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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